



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE HOUSTON FUGITIVE OPERATIONS TEAM ARRESTS SIX CRIMINAL ALIEN ABSCONDERS

Some of the fugitives wanted for drug offenses, domestic violence and assault charges

HOUSTON — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents here within the last two weeks have arrested six criminal aliens who absconded after receiving their final orders of removal.

ICE made the arrests as part of its National Fugitive Operations Program (NFOP), which is solely dedicated to tracking down absconders who have ignored an immigration judge's deportation orders. NFOP's mission is to identify, locate, apprehend, process, and remove fugitive aliens from the United States, with its highest priority placed on fugitives who have been convicted of crimes. NFOP's goal is also to eliminate the backlog of fugitive aliens in the U.S.

Those arrested by the ICE Houston Fugitive Operations Team include the following:

- Hilario Sanchez-Mireles, 34, a citizen from Mexico, arrested at his residence. Sanchez-Mireles has wanted for re-entering the United States after being deported in August 2004, which is a felony. Sanchez-Mireles' criminal record included larceny offenses in Harris County in 1983, assault violations in 1991, and convictions for possessing marijuana and a DUI in June 1996. He has been placed into removal proceedings and could face federal charges for re-entry after deportation that carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.
- Harry Espenella Espiloy, 45, a Philippine national, entered the United States in March 1995. In March 2003 he was convicted in Harris County for assault and bodily injury to his wife. In September 2004, an immigration court ordered him deported for those felony convictions, but failed to comply.
- Kierewicz Zygmunt, 51, a native from Poland, was arrested at his residence Jan. 10 after absconding following a January 2004 deportation order from a federal immigration judge. He had convictions in Harris County for aggravated assault and theft. After serving a year in state prison, ICE placed him into removal proceedings.

- Van Loch, 23, a native of Cambodia, was apprehended in Rosharon, Texas, last week. Loch had various criminal convictions, including: theft in 1996, burglary of a vehicle in 1997, engaging in organized criminal activity, burglary of a home in 2000 and distribution of a controlled substance in 2002. Loch was sentenced to two years at the Texas Department of Corrections Jail (TDCJ) and given five years probation. He has been placed into removal proceedings.
- Jose Arturo Nolasco, 36, a Honduran national, was apprehended at his residence. Nolasco had entered the United States illegally in June 1996. He was ordered deported by an immigration judge August 1997. Nolasco was convicted November 1996 on theft charges, and for possessing fictitious and counterfeit items. In 2002, he was convicted in Harris County for DUI, and then in 2004 for assault and bodily injury. His last arrest was in 2005 for another DUI. He is currently in removal proceedings.
- Margarita Acevedo, 55, a Mexican national, was apprehended at her residence late last week. Acevedo had entered the United States illegally in 1988. An immigration judge ordered her deported in 2004, and she appealed that final order with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). The BIA denied her appeal in December. Acevedo's criminal history includes a conviction for possession and intent to distribute cocaine in December 2001. Acevedo is currently in removal proceedings.

"Criminal aliens are a potential threat to our communities and they have no legal right to remain in the United States," said Steven Boll, acting field office director for Detention and Removal Operations. "ICE has a uniquely effective role in not only taking these criminals off our streets, but also removing them from the country. Those who choose to illegally re-enter the United States face a felony charge punishable by up to 20 years in prison."

ICE Detention and Removal Operations continues to support the Department of Homeland Security by promoting public safety and national security by ensuring the departure from the United States of all removable aliens through fair and effective enforcement of the nation's immigration laws.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.